

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

6.5.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Our Daily Bread

Matthew 6: 11 – 12

How do we treat those, who we feel have wronged us? As Christians, we are called to serve one another in love. This means that we do not yield to our own worldly desires at the cost of others. Our fleshly desires seek after those things which are very different from what the indwelling Holy Spirit of God wants for us in our life. Our human nature wants to feel good and possess those things which look good to us, and this comes through selfishness and pridefulness. So, we ask ourselves, are we willing to sin against each other, and God, to acquire earthly, material possessions. When we allow the spirit to lead us, his power will direct us, to serve others in love, and through the glory of God. God could have chosen to remove the old nature which we inherited from Adam, but when we accepted the saving grace of his Son, Christ, he allowed the two natures to co-exist within these earthly bodies to remind us of our human weaknesses, and also for the need to maintain our dependence upon him. Our obedience to the Holy Spirit will help us to increasingly transform into the person that God wants us to be, which is loving the Lord thy God with all our heart and loving thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 6: 11 – 12,....give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors....

Christ here, is teaching his disciples to pray, and the importance of the order in which we pray. Coming to an understanding of Gods word will help us to live according to his eternal plan.

Why did Christ teach his disciples to first pray for their daily bread and then to ask for forgiveness, and the ability to forgive others.

To understand this, we must first examine what it means to ask for our daily bread. First and foremost, it means just what it says. We ask for our daily bread or our daily provisions and needs to be met.

Matthew 6: 31 – 33,....seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you....

Now, secondly, before we can ask for forgiveness, and before we can forgive others, we must have our daily bread, meaning we must indulge ourselves in, and become obedient to the word of God.

Jeremiah 15: 16,....thy words were found, and I did eat them, and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart, for I am called by thy name, O lord God of hosts....

Gods word will stand fast forever. We are encouraged to hear the word, obey the word, meditate on the word, learn, and digest the many truths of the word, and then preach the word.

James 1: 22,....be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only....

Just as it was with Jeremiah, we are called to minister unto those who will not heed to the word of God, those who reject the promises of Gods saving grace. We find our hope and comfort in the word of God. As we hold the truth of Gods word in our heart, it will become to us a nutritious, life sustaining substance. For in his word there is all that we need for life and godliness.

Philippians 4: 10 – 13,....I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last your care of me hath flourished again....not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content....every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry....I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me....

Paul here was speaking of his daily bread which was both his need for daily physical provisions and his need for daily spiritual provisions. God will supply both as we seek him and his will. He will supply all that is needed for life, and he will supply all that is needed for godliness. Christ not only supplies our needs, but he is also the one that strengthens our hearts. Our contentment in life, no matter what the need, is found in Christ and his word. There is nothing in life that we can do without Christ, and there is nothing in life that we can receive that does not come from Christ.

Philippians 4: 17 – 19,....not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account....I am full....having received....a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God....but my God will supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus....

God does not make promises that can be broken. His abundant grace and mercy cover anything and everything that we need. Christ bestows these blessings upon us not only for our benefit, but also for the greater glory of God. God knows our daily needs, whether physical or spiritual, even before we ask. We must remember that Gods perspective of what we need, he has eternal value in mind. The more that we trust in him, the stronger our faith becomes, the more that we grow spiritually.

As we come to an understanding of what our daily bread is, then are we able to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

1 John 1: 9,....if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness....

We also understand, that if by the grace of God, we can be forgiven, then must we be encouraged to forgive others because God through Christ has forgiven us. Being forgiven and forgiving others is one in the same in our spiritual lives. As we ask God for forgiveness, we are also making the statement that we have forgiven those who have wronged us. Gods command to all believers is that as we have received his eternal mercy, grace and forgiveness, so should we in return offer the same to all who have sinned against us.

Matthew 6: 14 – 15,....for if we forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses....

As believers, we come to understand through the word of God, that our salvation is not just about us. We are created in the image of God, and this image is forgiveness, through his grace and his mercy. In order for Gods kingdom to be established, there must be forgiveness, Gods will, cannot be done on earth if we cannot extend the same forgiveness to others, that Christ, through the cross, has extended to us.

Ephesians 4: 32,....be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you....

If, as believers, we are not able to forgive, then we have not come to the fullness of an understanding of how much that we have been forgiven through Christ and the cross. Our daily bread, which is the word of God, is our spiritual nourishment, that we just cannot go without. The more understanding that we receive, the deeper our gratitude will become in the things that God, through Christ, has done for us, and the greater our capacity to forgive others will become.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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